

Work First Family Assistance (WFFA)

Work First Family Assistance (WFFA) is a cash assistance, employment based program. Families found eligible will receive a monthly check, in addition to Medicaid and Food Stamps. Eligibility is based on income and reserve.



Emphasis on employment and personal responsibility begin at the application interview and are carried throughout the process.

Individuals are required to sign a Mutual Responsibility Contract during the application process. This contract states that the client agrees to:

- Get their children immunized
- Ensure that their children receive regular Medical check-ups
- School aged children attend school regularly
- Teen parents must live at home and stay in school
- Seek employment, unless exempt

Reserve limit: \$3,000.00

Income limit is based on the number of people included in the check

Main Points

- Every job has meaning and purpose. The focus of the program is **Employment and Short Term Financial Assistance**.
- Sets a federal lifetime limit of **60 cumulative months** during which welfare benefits may be received.
- North Carolina limits receipt of benefits to **24 cumulative months**, then terminates benefits for **36 months** before the family can receive again.

Sanctions are imposed for non-compliance with the Personal Responsibility Contracts and/or non-compliance with Child Support.

Sanction Number	Sanction	Length of Sanction
First	50% Reduction of the Work First Check & Loss of Medicaid for Adult	3 months
Second and Subsequent	*Above Sanction & Pay after Performance	3 months

*(Pay after Performance requires the recipient to comply with the program requirements prior to receiving a check.)

Families must be given the opportunity to become independent. Under Work First, benefits are intended to be short term. Families are expected to work actively toward and share in the responsibility of becoming self-sufficient. To encourage work and make work pay, family members who work are allowed special work-related deductions.